HEALTHY CITY THRIVING FAMILIES

A Quarterly Report from the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

April - May 2003

Health Disparities in Minneapolis

The term "health disparity" means a difference in health status between a defined group and the rest of the population. Disparities can exist because of socioeconomic status, age, geographic area, gender, race or ethnicity, language, customs and other cultural factors. Due to growing awareness that populations of color and American Indians suffer disproportionately from poor health care access and health status, the MN Department of Health targeted funds toward eliminating these disparities. Approximately \$6 million was awarded by MDH to 31 community agencies working in Minneapolis over 2002-03 through the Eliminating Health Disparities Initiative (EHDI). Much has been accomplished through these efforts, but sustained support is required in order to eliminate these disparities.

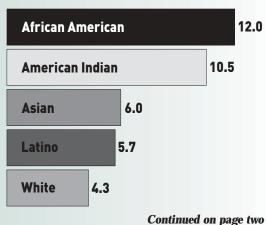
Disparities in income have long been recognized as major contributors to racial and ethnic disparities in health. In Minneapolis, African American, American Indian, Asian, and Latino families are all much more likely to struggle with lower incomes than white families. For example, 75-85 percent of African American, American Indian, Asian, and Latino students were enrolled in the free or reduced price school lunch program versus 26 percent for white students during the 2001-02 school year.

However, racial health disparities exist at every level of income, making it clear that other social and environmental determinants also play a key role. For some measures of health, there are also substantial differences among individual minority groups, suggesting that complex factors are influencing health and health behavior. Cultural and historical factors, level of discrimination, and immigration or refugee status may all be contributing factors.

Access to health care is also critically important for good health. The 2002 SHAPE survey reveals that Latino (42 percent) and American Indian (37 percent) adults were much more likely to be uninsured for all or part of the year than other racial/ethnic groups (7-15 percent). The survey also found that uninsurance was significantly associated with unmet medical and mental health care needs and reduced use of preventive health care.

Measures of maternal and child health are critical indicators because a healthy start increases the chance of a healthy and productive life. Infant mortality refers to the death of children before their first birthday.

Infant Mortality Rate Per 1000 Minneapolis Live Births, 1998-2000



SHAPE 2002 LAUNCHED

MDHFS recently published its first report from the Survey of the Health of Adults, the Population and the Environment (SHAPE). Perspectives on Health and Community: Minneapolis residents respond to SHAPE 2002 is a 12-page report providing an overview of the data available from the comprehensive SHAPE research. This survey of Minneapolis adults includes 6,638 interviews on topics such as health status, acute and chronic illnesses, health insurance, and health behav-

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iors like exercise and nutrition. City-specific data is available for each of the 11 planning districts, and for American Indians, Southeast Asians, U.S. born and foreign-born Blacks and African Americans, Latinos, and Whites.

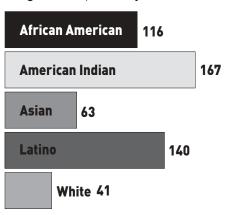
This first report offers brief examples for just a few of the many communities in Minneapolis: families with young children; seniors; new arrivals; lesbians, gays, and bisexuals: communities of color: and residents of the Longfellow community. These profiles are designed to spur interest among diverse audiences to partner with MDHFS in using this valuable resource. The report is posted on the MDHFS website, and print copies are also available. For more information, or to have a presentation or meeting about SHAPE 2002, contact Pat Harrison at 612/673-3883.

HEALTH DISPARITIES continued

In Minneapolis, the infant mortality rate for African Americans and American Indians is more than twice that of white. For Asians and Latinos, the rates are higher than for whites but well below those for African Americans and American Indians. Infant mortality rates for African Americans, American Indians, Latinos, and whites have all declined in recent years, but the disparities remain.

Births to teenage mothers are another area of concern because of the greater risk of poor birth outcomes and long-term family poverty. In 2000, the teen birth rates among American

Teen Birth Rate Per 1000 Females Aged 15-18, Minneapolis 2000



Indians, Latinos, and African Americans were all much higher than among Asians and whites. The encouraging news is that teen births among African Americans and Asians dropped by more than one-third since 1990.

MDHFS is working on several fronts to reduce these significant disparities among Minneapolis residents. In follow-up to the 2001 report, *Closing the Gap: A Public Health Report on Health Disparities* (co-produced by MDHFS and the Minnesota Department of Health), MDHFS helped community based organizations apply for EHDI funding and continues to provide technical support through regular meetings with these grantees. MDHFS is opposing funding cuts to the EHDI initiative and to publicly funded programs which will further aggravate the current disparities.

For more information on MDHFS policy initiatives, contact Patty Bowler at 612/673-3009. For more detailed descriptions of health disparities the March update of *Health Disparities in Minneapolis* is posted on the MDHFS web site, or call Dave Johnson at 612/673-3948 for a print copy.

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS)

works to ensure that all families are healthy and fully share in the social and economic opportunities of the City of Minneapolis. The MDHFS reaches residents by working in partnership with community organizations, other units of government, schools, and health and human service agencies.

David S. Doth. Director

Council Member Natalie Johnson Lee, Chair,
Health & Human Services
Committee

612/673-2301 www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs



Metro Urban Indian Day on the Hill

This advocacy event was held for the second year to encourage urban American Indians to connect with their legislators about issues of concern. The Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors and MDHFS coordinated the February 5th event. Pictured at left is American Indian Dave Anderson, CEO of Famous Dave's Barbeque, and one of several speakers addressing legislators and community members. For more information, contact Bill Carter at 612/673-3028.

STEP UP for Youth

With direction and oversight by the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB), STEP UP is an exciting new youth development initiative within Minneapolis Employment and Training Program. STEP UP aims to increase opportunities and preserve funding for learning-rich, safe, and healthy activities for young people in our community. "By connecting our bright and promising young people with opportunities in employment, education and recreation, we can support their positive growth and see that our businesses and community thrive in the future," states Mayor R.T. Rybak.

STEP UP is a call to business, recreation, and educational serving organizations and programs to provide opportunities for youth this summer. If you or your program can provide a summer opportunity for Minneapolis youth such as a job, internship, volunteer activity, or recreational experience, please call the What's UP Youth Information line at: 612/399-9999 to find out how to get involved.



Minneapolis Employment & Training Program (METP) was honored as Public Partner of the Year by Goodwill/Easter Seals on January 29th. The award was given for the Adult and Dislocated Worker program employment and training efforts. Pictured from left to right are Chip Wells, METP Director, Darlene Sam, and Diane Tessari, holding the award.

Inspiring Youth to Stay in School

Newly developed by MDHFS, these two posters feature African American physicians, Dr. Barbara Leone (pictured at right) and Dr. Julia Joseph-DiCaprio. The posters give inspirational



messages to youth about staying in school and "staying the course" to meet their goals. Dr. Leone, a family physician at North Memorial Clinic on Broadway in North Minneapolis, spoke to the Roosevelt High Medical Magnet students at the unveiling of her poster last December. Dr. Julia Joseph-DiCaprio is the director of the Teen Clinic at Hennepin County Medical Center and staffs the MDHFS School-Based Clinic at Henry High, among her many other roles. The posters will be distributed to METP Youth Vendors and School-Based Clinics. For copies of the posters, call Timothy Beaver at 612/673-2181.

Urban Health Agenda: Guest Author Don Fraser

Grappling with the role of the City in supporting families, children and at-risk populations is a challenge for all of us. When I became mayor of Minneapolis in 1980, I assumed that children were taken care of by the family, the schools, and if problems arose, by the County. A few years into the job, then School Superintendent Richard Green asked me and my administration to become involved in issues such as teen pregnancy, children's lack of preparedness for school, gangs and school dropout, and other children and youth issues. We began the Youth Coordinating Board, Way to Grow, mentoring, school-based health clinics, Neighborhood Employment Network, Transitional Work Internship and other programs.

Our attention was on the "deficits" that youngsters were experiencing. Over time the question naturally arose, how can we prevent problems in the first place? What policies or programs would encourage wise choices, the healthy growth and development of children, and positive outcomes? Must we always focus on those experiencing trouble?

The health field illustrates this different approach. Health care is for sick people. Public health is to keep people from becoming sick. We needed a public health approach to supporting healthy families living in healthy neighborhoods. Sometimes this is called "prevention," which it is, but we were looking for

stronger positive outcomes. We needed a City effort and a department that consistently worked with community partners to fashion joint solutions for human capital issues.

In 1993, the decision was to place responsibility for this new approach in the Department of Health – drawing on its experience, with the hope that over time the public health approach would encompass a broader view of community and family health. Thus the renaming of this City Department to "Health and Family Support," which has been its mission for the past 10 years. And the ongoing challenge of defining an urban health agenda remains.

Healthy City Updates

National Laboratory Week April 20-26

To celebrate, MDHFS' Public Health Laboratory is offering tours on Wednesday, April 23rd in Room 523 of the Public Service Center. Discounted water lead analysis tests for \$8 will also be offered April 20-26. Street drug analysis is available free of charge year round. For more information, call the Lab at 612/673-2160.

May is American Indian Month

in Minnesota, and the American Indian Advocate's office, housed within MDHFS, is helping plan and publicize many events. The celebration gets an early start on April 30th with the American Indian Wellness Fair at the Minneapolis American Indian Center from noon - 4 pm. On May 1st, Mayor R.T. Rybak will help kick off a feast at 11:30 am, also at the American Indian Center, located at Franklin and Bloomington. For a complete listing of events, contact Bill Carter at 612/673-3028.

Dental Health Safety Net

MDHFS has published a new policy brief *Building a Children's Oral Health Safety Net*. The four page publication overviews dental health in Minneapolis with recommendations for increased dental access, especially for low income children. The brief is posted at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs, or call Megan Ellingson for a print copy at 612/673-3817.

Teen Parent Connection

Teen Parent Connection is a new countywide initiative, spearheaded by MDHFS, Hennepin County, Minneapolis Public Schools, the Minnesota Organization on Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention and Parenting (MOAPPP). The Teen Parent Connection creates a way for multiple agencies to work together to identify all teen parent families and help them succeed by keeping them connected to school, parenting support, quality early childhood experiences, and preventing secondary pregnancies. A kickoff event was held on March 14th, with 120 participants. For more information, call 612/668-1881.

New Funding Awards

The Medtronic Foundation will grant MDHFS \$20,000 for the School-Based Clinics' *Not Ready Now* program, which prevents repeat pregnancies among students attending the Broadway School of Arts and Technology. This school is a magnet for pregnant and parenting students with young children, providing child care and supportive services. The Skyway Senior Center has also received a grant of \$2500 for operating funds from Wells Fargo. Pictured from left to right are Fay Harrison, Skyway Senior Center; Kelly Goez; Gail



Owen; Earl Erpelding, Wells Fargo; Peggy Ramstad, Skyway Senior Center; and William Sanden, Wells Fargo.

If you need this document in an alternative format, please call (612) 673-2301 or TTY (612) 673-2157 (General City Information). Please allow a reasonable amount of time for special needs accommodation.

FAST FACTS

GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

Estimated Effect on Minneapolis Residents

• Virtually **no health care coverage** for undocumented residents and nonimmigrants. During a typical month, this would affect:

934 pregnant women,706 children, and127 elderly or disabled.

- **4576** people currently eligible for health care coverage would not be eligible in 2004, and this number increases to **7549** in 2007. These estimates combine cuts in General Assistance Medical Care, Medical Assistance, and MinnesotaCare.
- \$193,738 cut to Summer Youth Employment & Training Program (33% cut). In 2002, 1200 low-income Minneapolis youth were served by this program.

For the complete 11 page memo detailing the effects of these and other proposed budget cuts on Minneapolis residents, call Patty Bowler at 612/673-3009.